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Title: Need to conduct survey for connecting Sirkali-Karaikal, Mayiladuthurai-Karaikal and Kumbakonam-Karaikal with National Highway.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Karaikal district of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 160 Kms. away from Puducherry, the capital city of the Union Territory. This district is surrounded by Nagapattinam and Thanjavur districts. It is surrounded by places like Sirkali, Mayiladuthurai, Kumbakonam and Nagapatttinam. Since this district is situated in the midst of a backward district it has also remained a backward region for long time. Although the Union Territory as a whole has progressed phenomenally, the Karaikal region has remained undeveloped relatively. With a view to overcome this backwardness and to accelerate its development, the Government of Puducherry has declared Karaikal as a separate district recently. The physical infrastructure like roads, railways, airways, waterways is owefully inadequate or nearly absent. The district is not at all connected by railways. The only means of common transport is roads which are in miserable condition. The recent Tsunami and the regular natural disasters like floods have been continuously devastating the road conditions. Karaikal is attracting a large number of tourists because of its religious possession of Saneeswaran temple and Karaikal Ammaiyar. But the tourists and public face difficulties to reach Karaikal. Since Karaikal is a part of the Union Territory, the Government of India, the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways is requested to connect Karaikal by National Highways or connect by the State Highways with the funding of Government of India. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to conduct immediate survey and lay pucca roads connecting Sirkali, Karaikal, Mayiladuthurai-Karaikal and Kumbakonam-Karaikal. Such a move would catalyze the economic, social and tourist development of Karaikal.